

## **Ventral Tegmental Area**

I mentioned the VTA just a moment ago, the Ventral Tegmental Area. This is the other major player in the whole reward circuitry. Okay. It's located right here on the brain stem and it receives subcortical inputs on what's going on in your environment. What does this thing do? So, this is the origin of dopaminergic cells in the Mesocortical and Mesolimbic System. It is basically where the reward circuitry starts. It plays an important role in a number of processes including reward cognition. the VTA is a brain region centrally involved in the development and expression of variety of behaviors associated with drug use.